

The bill before us today helps bring closure to almost 50 years of litigation and uncertainty that have impacted tribal and nontribal communities in southern California.

□ 1800

Negotiations between five tribes, water districts, cities, and Federal Government have been ongoing for decades, and this bill represents the results of those successful negotiations. The Federal money has already been appropriated for this settlement, and this bill, as amended, includes provisions that are aimed at resolving direct spending issues that have been identified by the Congressional Budget Office.

It is not often that both sides of the aisle come to an agreement on anything involving California water. While I hope that we will have agreement on larger California water issues in the near future, this bill shows that we can come together. I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan measure.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This bill approves a water rights settlement agreement that would resolve nearly five decades of litigation. That is a great thing.

The 2015 settlement between the United States and the parties that Mr. DENHAM just mentioned is important, and approving this settlement will finally put an end to years of bitter fighting over water rights in the San Luis Rey River Basin. It also leaves intact the full amount of funds Congress previously appropriated for the tribes. This kind of negotiation is important, and the painstaking work that has gone into it is to be commended. Now it is up to Congress to do its part to implement a well-crafted settlement.

I commend my colleagues across the aisle for introducing this bill and for moving it through the House, and I thank the committee staffs on both sides who have been working hard to bring this bill to the floor.

I have to say, though, Mr. Speaker, that all of this good, collaborative work represented in Mr. HUNTER's bill stands in contrast to another set of pending water agreements in our State. I hope that the Obama administration will look at this successful example of collaboration in San Diego County and reconsider its current approach to the Westlands-San Joaquin Valley drainage disputes, where Congress and the public have been extremely ill-served.

In the two pending drainage agreements, the Interior Department has agreed to waive hundreds of millions of dollars that are owed to taxpayers. They have failed to close off potential litigation risks from other parties and have failed to secure actual commitments to clean up the contamination. They have also promised to write a new, permanent water contract for a party that is not a tribal party but is

in an arid state where everyone is hurting for clean water. Meanwhile, we weren't able to receive administration testimony on one of the agreements due, in part, to a pending inspector general investigation of the beneficiaries.

I am hopeful that, in the next administration and in a new Congress, we can do a better job on this drainage issue and, specifically, that we will be able to tackle those California drainage disputes with the same level of collaboration and problem-solving that we have seen in the San Luis Rey Basin.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER).

Mr. HUNTER. I thank the gentleman and my great friend from California.

Mr. Speaker, the parties to this settlement have been working towards a resolution for almost 50 years; so I will keep my remarks brief so that we don't delay them any further. Before I get into the substance of this bill, I thank Chairman BISHOP, Chairman FLEMING, and the Natural Resources Committee staff for their assistance in getting this bill to the floor right now. I also thank my friends across the aisle.

Today we are addressing an issue that dates back to the late 19th century, when the Federal Government established reservations—in what is now my district in northern San Diego County—for five Mission Indian bands. The creation of these reservations included sufficient water to meet the bands' present and future needs. However, in 1969, litigation arose surrounding whether the Federal Government improperly signed over the bands' water rights claims to two non-Indian municipalities—what are today the city of Escondido and the Vista Irrigation District.

In 1988, after decades of litigation, Congress enacted legislation that was introduced by former Congressman Ron Packard, the 1988 San Luis Rey Water Rights Settlement Act. Among its provisions, the legislation directed the U.S. Secretary of the Interior to provide water annually to the tribes and established the San Luis Rey Tribal Development Fund. However, that act only becomes effective when all of the parties to the litigation enter into a settlement agreement providing for the complete resolution of all claims. That is what the legislation we are considering today accomplishes.

This legislation puts into effect a previous Department of Justice settlement agreed to by all parties—the five Mission Indian bands, the two local municipalities, and the Federal Government—and requires no new money or water to be enacted. With the passage of H.R. 1296, Congress can, at last, end this dispute and finalize the action it sought in passing the original settlement act in 1988.

I urge all Members to support this bipartisan legislation.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, in closing, this is one small step to California's water solutions. It is about time that we came together on this one small issue in California. Now it is time to face the much bigger issues of a drought-stricken State that continues to see a lack of water storage. It is time that we find a real solution for all of California.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. DENHAM) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1296, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ROBERT EMMET PARK ACT OF 2016

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4564) to redesignate the small triangular property located in Washington, DC, and designated by the National Park Service as reservation 302 as "Robert Emmet Park", and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4564

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Robert Emmet Park Act of 2016".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds as follows:

(1) Robert Emmet was one of Ireland's most prominent historical figures, having led an effort to secure Irish independence in 1803.

(2) Although Emmet's efforts initially failed, they succeeded in inspiring new generations of Irish men and women to struggle for independence.

(3) For his efforts to gain Irish independence, Emmet was found guilty of treason and sentenced to death by hanging.

(4) Robert Emmet's "Speech from the Dock" motivated many of the efforts that led to an independent Ireland following 1916's Easter Rising; (Emmet famously said that "To [Ireland] I sacrificed every selfish, every lasting sentiment . . . I wished to place her independence beyond the reach of any power of earth . . . to procure for my country the guarantee which Washington procured for America . . . to exalt her to that proud station in the world."). Emmet was strongly influenced by American democracy and the American Revolution.

(5) Emmet had family members similarly admiring of the United States and dedicated to the cause of Irish independence, including his brother Thomas Addis Emmet who went on to become a prominent Attorney General of New York.

(6) Emmet has been revered by generations of Irish-Americans for his leadership, courage, and sacrifice.

(7) Fifty years ago on April 22, 1966, the Robert Emmet Statue was dedicated on a

small parcel of National Park Service land (reservation 302) at the corner of 24th Street NW and Massachusetts Avenue NW in Washington, DC.

(8) Robert Emmet's statue is the central feature of reservation 302.

(9) Many leading Members of Congress, including Speaker of the House John W. McCormack and Senators Everett Dirksen and Mike Mansfield served on the Robert Emmet Statue Dedication Committee.

(10) Other members of that committee and participants in the dedication ceremony included Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall, Representative Michael Kirwan, Ambassador of Ireland William P. Fay, and Rector of St. Matthews Cathedral John K. Cartwright.

SEC. 3. REDESIGNATION OF ROBERT EMMET PARK.

(a) REDESIGNATION.—The small triangular property designated by the National Park Service as reservation 302, shall be known as "Robert Emmet Park".

(b) REFERENCE.—Any reference in any law, regulation, document, record, map, paper, or other record of the United States to the property referred to in subsection (a) is deemed to be a reference to "Robert Emmet Park".

(c) SIGNAGE.—The Secretary of the Interior may post signs on or near Robert Emmet Park that include one or more of the following:

(1) Information on Robert Emmet, his contribution to Irish Independence, and his respect for the United States and the American Revolution.

(2) Information on the history of the statue of Robert Emmet located in Robert Emmet Park.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. DENHAM) and the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. DENHAM).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This bill, introduced by Congressman CROWLEY of New York, redesignates a small, triangular property in Washington, D.C., that is currently designated by the National Park Service as reservation 302, as Robert Emmet Park.

Robert Emmet is a prominent historical figure who is known for his role in the Irish Rebellion of 1803 and for his classic Speech from the Dock that inspired future efforts to gain Irish independence. Last April marked the 100th anniversary of the 1916 uprising, commonly known as the Easter Rising by Irish Republicans, to end British rule and establish an independent Irish Republic.

The small property redesignated by the bill is located just a few blocks from the Irish Embassy, and it cur-

rently features a nearly 100-year-old statue of Robert Emmet—a source of pride for America's Irish community. The bill also authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to post informational signage regarding Robert Emmet and his statue in the park.

I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, Robert Emmet was an Irishman who was inspired by our hard-fought independence in this country, and he wanted the same for his native land. I think this bill is a wonderful thing for Ireland and a wonderful thing for Irish Americans, including for my colleague, Mr. CROWLEY, a great, proud Irish American.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4564 designates a small triangle of land in Washington, DC as the Robert Emmet Park. The parcel is home to a statue of Robert Emmet, a seminary figure in Ireland's quest for independence. The bill also authorizes the National Park Service, which managed the area, to add interpretive displays and signage to the area.

Emmet admired the independence we achieved in this country, and only wanted the same freedom and liberty for his compatriots. These powerful sentiments are a charge to all of us in this Chamber and throughout the country: that we put the good of our fellow countrymen before our individual gains and that we work together to preserve this great Nation.

By designating this small plot of land and the accompanying statue as Robert Emmet Park, this stands as a constant reminder of the call to liberty and freedom that binds our Nation together. I am glad to support this bill and thank the sponsor, Representative JOE CROWLEY of New York, the vice-chair of the Democratic Caucus.

I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY).

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank both of my friends from California for bringing this bill to the floor today. I am not a member of the requisite committee, but I appreciate the work that was done to bring it to the floor. I thank them both for speaking in favor of this piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, it is interesting that we are here this week at the cusp of the grand opening of the National Museum of African American History and Culture here in Washington, D.C.—a, rightfully, magnificent building here on The Mall of our Nation's Capital. I think, after listening to a few of the remarks I will make about this little piece of property here in Washington, it is a modicum in comparison to that, but it is, I think, worthy of our support.

This is a bipartisan bill that is before us today. It has earned the support of both sides of the aisle. Specifically, it would name a small parcel of land in Washington, D.C., as the Robert Emmet Park. In some ways, the name can be considered a formality because, as has been mentioned by Mr. DENHAM, there is already a statue of Emmet

that has been in the park for decades. It is the only statue in the very small park, and it is situated so that it is the main visible feature to visitors. I hope one doesn't mind my sharing just a little of the history here today.

The Robert Emmet statue first came into the possession of the United States 100 years ago, when then-President Woodrow Wilson, other Cabinet members, diplomats, and Members of Congress joined in the acceptance ceremony.

The statue was a gift from the Irish American community and was created by renowned artist Jerome Connor. After it was donated, it graced the rotunda of the National Museum of Natural History for its first 50 years. In the 1960s, it was moved to its current location in the park, and it was rededicated. The statue has stood there ever since and has been admired by millions of tourists, visitors, local residents, and passersby.

But this is not just a statue. For many Americans, the admiration for Robert Emmet reflects a deep and abiding pride in Irish American history as well as the lasting, worldwide influence of our own American history. That is because, over 200 years ago, inspired by George Washington and the American Revolution, Emmet led an attempt to free Ireland from British rule. For this effort, he was captured and was ultimately executed. In the course of his execution, he gave one of the most famous speeches in history, known as the Speech from the Dock. His cause lived on not only because he paid the ultimate price on September 20, 1803, but because of his incredible and indelible words that he spoke that day.

In his speech, Emmet spoke about how George Washington and the American independence struggle inspired his actions. He spoke about his desire for sovereignty and for independence for his own land. He spoke about his desire for freedom and uttered words that live on in the hearts of Irish Americans and of all freedom-loving people throughout the world.

I quote from that speech:

Let no man write my epitaph; for as no man who knows my motives dare now vindicate them, let not prejudice or ignorance asperse them. Let them and me rest in obscurity and peace and my tomb remain unscrubbed and my memory in oblivion until other times and other men can do justice to my character. When my country takes her place among the nations of the Earth, then—and not till then—let my epitaph be written.

It is dangerous to paraphrase a famous speech; but basically Emmet was saying not to write his epitaph until the struggle was won. He believed it ultimately would be won someday.

The brilliance of his speech and the courage of his convictions had a profound impact on people throughout the world, but particularly in Ireland. Understand that he was subject to execution—he was hung, drawn, and quartered—and he knew that that is what he was facing; yet he had the ability to

deliver one of the greatest speeches in the history of mankind.

Scholars indicate that President Abraham Lincoln knew and recited the very speech I just alluded to. The American author Washington Irving wrote of Emmet, and many school-children across our country memorized parts of the speech I just referred to. I, myself, learned of that passage during time spent at my high school, my alma mater, Power Memorial Academy in New York City.

Emmet and his speech also had a real and concrete impact on our own American history. In fact, organizations called the Emmet Monument Association sprung up in the United States. Their goal was to build a burial monument to Emmet on which that promised epitaph, one day, could be written. Since Emmet had requested that Ireland be free before his epitaph were written, these were really Fenian freedom organizations.

□ 1815

Over the years, these and other organizations were supported by countless Americans not only in New York, Boston, and Washington, D.C., but throughout our land, Irish and non-Irish alike. Their work was the precursor to later American roles in the struggle for Ireland's independence, and their presence played a major part in American political life for many, many, many decades.

When the Emmet statue was moved to its current location 50 years ago, many leading American figures served on the bipartisan dedication committee, including then-Speaker of the House John W. McCormack and Senators Everett Dirksen and Mike Mansfield. They were joined by the Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall and Rector of St. Matthews Catholic Cathedral, John Cartwright.

President Lyndon Johnson also conveyed his admiration for Emmet in a message to the event writing, "... the sheer patriotism and the gallant courage of Robert Emmet has inspired Americans no less than Irishmen ... We Americans are proud to accord a place of honor here in the Nation's Capital to Robert Emmet, whose struggles and sacrifices bespeak the yearnings of mankind throughout the ages."

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Congress and the U.S. Government have long recognized the significance of this park and its central statue in keeping alive not only the memory of Robert Emmet but the ideals that he fought and what he was executed for.

I hope we can continue that record and the bipartisan cooperation here today by passing this legislation. This bill doesn't require spending funds. It doesn't require undue efforts. It doesn't significantly rearrange any current setup of the park or the park system. It would simply attach the name "Robert Emmet Park" to the existing small piece of land where that statue rests.

I respectfully urge its passage.

In closing, I thank the members and staff of the Natural Resources Committee for their work and their support of this measure. I greatly appreciate their work in ensuring that this is on the floor and that the bill passes today.

I can't do enough justice to the life of Robert Emmet, nor his brother, Thomas, for that matter, and all those who followed afterwards. He was an incredible inspiration, as I said, not only to Ireland but well beyond the shores of Ireland as well, including the United States of America.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would just like to thank Mr. CROWLEY for offering this important issue. It is important to Irish heritage, and it certainly deserves the recognition as a park right here in our local area of Washington, D.C.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YOUNG of Iowa). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. DENHAM) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4564.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROHIBITING FUTURE RANSOM PAYMENTS TO IRAN ACT

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous materials they might want to include on this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 879 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 5931.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. RUSSELL) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1820

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 5931) to provide for the prohibition on cash payments to the Government of Iran, and for other purposes, with Mr. RUSSELL in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I raise this issue because, on three occasions now, we have had the transfer of pallets of cash to the Government of Iran, and this legislation would make certain that that does not happen again.

The reason we do not want to pay cash to the Government of Iran has to do with all of the efforts that the international community has put into trying to track the conduct of that regime, which is a primary money laundering concern for the international financial community, and for the fact that particular government in Iran, the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps, has been the primary source of cash support for Hamas in the past and also today for Hezbollah.

We could add to that the work of the IRGC in trying to get parts for their ballistic missile program as their agents are out and about Europe trying to buy this equipment.

It is not in the interest of the United States to have the regime have cold, hard cash. So this legislation would put an end to that.

As the Members of the House will recall, the President announced in January that the United States would pay Iran \$1.7 billion to settle a dispute involving a 1979 arms deal. This payment came out of the blue.

From the start, by the way, Iranian military commanders were saying that a hostage exchange, which I think most of us originally assumed, was going to be nine prisoners who were in the process of being convicted in the United States, of Iranian nationality, were going to be exchanged for the four hostages, the four Americans, that Iran was holding.

Yet, from the beginning, as this was announced, you saw the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps speaking to this issue saying there was going to be a transfer of cash. Basically, there was going to be a ransom payment here in exchange for letting the Americans go.

Well, it turns out that, after months of pressing from the Foreign Affairs Committee and the media, the Obama administration finally admitted that it had ignored the concerns from the Justice Department.

Now, what was the Justice Department's concerns? It had to do with the way in which the payment was being made. It had to do with the transfer of cash.

As the Justice Department said, there is a longstanding U.S. policy against this process. Why? Because when you do so, you can expect to get more of the same kind of action from a state like Iran.

Indeed, once the \$1.7 billion in these three tranches of cash were paid, the